

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 8 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, IN DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW,
SAID TALKS BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN SALT NEGOTIATORS
ENDED FRIDAY AND WERE DESCRIBED AS CONSTRUCTIVE BY PAUL
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WARNKE. UPI SAID WARNKE TOLD REPORTERS HE WOULD LEAVE FOR
WASHINGTON FRIDAY ALONG WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR MALCOLM TOON.
WARNKE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW THURSDAY AND MET WITH GROMYKO FOR
"WORKING LUNCH" AT U.S. EMBASSY. ANOTHER SESSION WAS HELD
FRIDAY MORNING, UPI REPORTED. "TALKS WERE USEFUL AND CON-
STRUCTIVE AND I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT NEW SALT AGREEMENT CAN
BE REACHED BY END OF YEAR," WARNKE SAID. UPI QUOTED SENIOR

WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE AS SAYING TALKS IN MOSCOW WERE "JUST ANOTHER STEP IN PROCESS. THEY WERE INTENDED TO LAY BASIS FOR TALKS BETWEEN GROMYKO AND VANCE IN U.S. LATER THIS MONTH." ACCORDING TO SOURCE, UPI REPORTED, THERE WERE "NO DRAMATIC INITIATIVES ON EITHER SIDE," BUT SESSIONS HELPED TO PROVIDE "NEW INSIGHTS" FOR BOTH SIDES.

2. DAVID K. WILLIS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, REPORTING

FROM MOSCOW, SAID THERE ARE "SOME SIGNS HERE OF AT LEAST PARTIAL THAW IN DIPLOMATIC ICE THAT HAS ENCASED SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS." AMONG OTHER THINGS, WILLIS POINTED TO WARNKE'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO. "SCENE AT OPULENT GUESTHOUSE OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY AS GROMYKO MET WARNKE WAS FILLED WITH FEELING THAT IMPORTANT MANEUVERING WAS AT HAND WITH POSSIBLY SHIFT IN U.S. POSITION ON SOME POINTS...." WILLIS SAID CARTER "SUDDENLY" SENT WARNKE TO MOSCOW "IN AN APPARENT SWITCH IN TACTICS. INSTEAD OF DROPPING NEW POSITIONS ON SOVIETS WITH LITTLE ADVANCE NOTICE, CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO LAY OUT WITH CARE WHAT IS IN VANCE'S MIND, BEFORE SECRETARY OF STATE MEETINGS GROMYKO IN NEW YORK. LITTLE IS KNOWN OF SUBSTANCE OF SEPT. 7 TALKS -- BUT FEELING HERE WAS THAT ONLY AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT INITIATIVE COULD HAVE BROUGHT SO MANY HIGH-POWERED NEGOTIATORS AROUND SAME TABLE."

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3. UPI REPORTED THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER TOLD NEWSMEN THURSDAY THAT SALT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VANCE AND GROMYKO WOULD RESUME LATER THIS MONTH OR IN EARLY OCTOBER. ASKED IF GROMYKO WOULD BE COMING TO WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 17, AS REPORTED EARLIER, SPOKESMAN REPLIED, "WE HAVE SAID, AND I DON'T HAVE DATE TO OFFER YOU, THAT WE EXPECT TO HAVE SALT TALKS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND SECRETARY VANCE AT SOME POINT WHICH ROUGHLY COINCIDES WITH SECRETARY'S OWN PLANS FOR U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THAT IS NOT SUGGESTING TO YOU THAT IT WILL BE HELD THERE. PLANS ARE NOT YET AT POINT THAT I CAN ANNOUNCE THEM. I WOULD ONLY SAY TO YOU THAT I DON'T THINK THAT SEPTEMBER 17 WOULD BE GOOD DATE TO OFFER AS MEETING TIME." UPI SAID VANCE WILL BE GOING TO NEW YORK WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 23-24 TO BEGIN FORMAL BILATERALS AND IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND UNGA THROUGH EARLY OCTOBER. ASKED IF HE COULD RULE OUT GROMYKO MEETING BEFORE THAT, SPOKESMAN TOLD NEWSMEN "NO, I CAN'T."

4. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID SEYMOUR SHWILLER, KEY STAFFER OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, ADMITTED SLIPPING PENTAGON WITNESS COPY OF QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AT CLOSED-DOOR SUBCOM-

MITTEE HEARING AUGUST 15 ON CTB. ANDERSON SAID BRIG. GEN. HARRY GOODALL, WHO CRITICIZED CTB TREATY ON BEHALF OF JCS, "RESPONDED WITH SURPRISING EASE TO SERIES OF COMPLEX QUESTIONS DRAWN UP BY COMMITTEE STAFF." REP. BOB CARR, NOTING THAT GOODALL APPEARED TO BE READING VERBATIM REPLIES TO TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, DEMANDED TO KNOW WHETHER GENERAL HAD SEEN QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE. "ACCORDING TO SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH SECRET TESTIMONY, GOODALL ADMITTED THAT HE HAD. UNDER FURTHER QUESTIONING, HE CONCEDED HE HAD BEEN SLIPPED COPY OF QUESTIONS DAY BEFORE HEARING." ANDERSON SAID GOODALL

WAS RELUCTANT TO IDENTIFY HIS SOURCE, BUT SHWILLER "SPOKE UP UNEXPECTEDLY AND TOOK RESPONSIBILITY." SHWILLER ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NOT CHECKED WITH ANY MEMBER OF COMMITTEE. UNCLASSIFIED

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MITTEE ABOUT GIVING GENERAL AN ADVANCE COPY OF QUESTIONS. RESPONDING TO CARR'S DEMAND FOR AN EXPLANATION, ANDERSON SAID SHWILLER REPLIED "I HAVE NO REASONS, SIR." SHWILLER CONFESSED HE HAD NOT FURNISHED LIST OF QUESTIONS TO TWO PRO-TREATY WITNESSES FROM STATE DEPARTMENT AND ACDA, ANDERSON SAID. IN AN EFFORT TO BRING FAIRNESS TO HEARINGS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHARLES WILSON PASSED QUESTIONS TO TREATY PROPONENTS AND ALLOWED THEM EXTRA TIME TO PREPARE THEIR ANSWERS, ANDERSON REPORTED. SHWILLER TOLD ANDERSON ASSOCIATE HE DOESN'T NECESSARILY AGREE WITH GOODALL'S VIEWS OF CTB TREATY. BUT ANDERSON SAID WILSON STATED THAT GOODALL OPPOSES CTB TREATY; IN FACT, "ALL STAFF ARE OPPOSED TO IT."

5. AVIATION WEEK REPORTED THAT AIR FORCE IS INCURRING IRE OF PENTAGON, NSC AND CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS WITH ITS ESTIMATE OF 2.6 BILLION DOLLARS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE FOR MAP BASING SYSTEM FOR MINUTEMAN MISSILES. AIR FORCE BELIEVES IT WILL COST ABOUT 500 MILLION DOLLARS JUST TO DEVELOP HORIZONTAL TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITY FOR MOVING MINUTEMAN FROM SILO TO SILO AT RANDOM INTERVALS. AVIATION WEEK SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BELIEVE THESE FIGURES ARE HIGHLY INFLATED. ONE TOP STRATEGIC WEAPONS EXPERT SAID "USAF HAS LOST B-1, IS ABOUT TO LOSE CRUISE MISSILE TO NAVY AND IS SCARED TO DEATH THAT MINUTEMAN MAP BASING WILL LATER CAUSE THEM TO LOSE MX. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT IF MINUTEMAN MAP PROGRAM WORKS OUT WELL, CONGRESS WILL LATER TURN DOWN FUNDING FOR MX BECAUSE U.S. ICBM'S WILL BE SURVIVABLE. UNLESS USAF GETS SERIOUS ABOUT MINUTEMAN MAP, THEY COULD DISCOVER THEIR SILOS STUFFED WITH (TRIDENT) C-4 SLBM'S."

6. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST SAID PRESIDENT CARTER UNCLASSIFIED

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"WON BIG VICTORY YESTERDAY WHEN HOUSE VOTED 206 TO 191 TO
UPHOLD HIS VETO OF 37 BILLION DOLLAR DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
BILL. THOSE ATTEMPTING TO OVERRIDE VETO FAILED EVEN TO
WIN MAJORITY OF HOUSE AND FELL 74 VOTES SHORT OF REQUIRED
TWO-THIRDS." CHRISTOPHER

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